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EXAMINER

AKERS, G

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2164

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/302,034

Applicant(s)
Rose et al

Examiner
Geoffrey Akers

Group Art Unit
2164



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 29, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 37-119 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 37-119 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☒ The drawing(s) filed on Apr 29, 1999 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 5

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit 2164

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the lines numbers and characters are not uniformly thick and crisp in Figures 1-27. The margins are unacceptable in Figures 2,5-9,10,20-28 and the figure legends are placed incorrectly in Figures 5-6A, 6C-9B, 10,12-17,20-22. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 37-81 and 85-119 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Fukuma(US Pat. No: 5,909,668) and further in view of Waytena(US Pat. No: 5,978,770).

4. As per claim 37 Fukuma teaches a software product comprising a website module configured to create a site to enable a user to book a table at a banquet area(Fig 2/10), the website module further comprising a time slot display module configured to display one or more available time-slots corresponding to one or more available tables at the banquet area's place of business(Fig 5/10/11/12/13/14/15) and a booking module configured to enable the Internet user to book one of the available time slots to reserve the corresponding available table(col 5 lines 16-31) and a banquet area maintenance module configured to provide the banquet access to the banquet hall's table reservation inventory(Fig 6/13/7/14/3/5), the banquet hall maintenance

Art Unit 2164

module further comprising a reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to the plurality of time-slots for the tables at the banquet hall(Fig 8/811-816) and a table reservation management module configured to enable the banquet hall to book time-slots in the reservation booking database to reserve tables at the hall for customers not making bookings over the Internet(Fig 14)(Fig 15)(Fig 16)(Fig 17).Fukuma teaches the above for banquet halls. Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

5.As per claim 38 Fukoma teaches the software product of claim 37, wherein the web site module further comprises an Internet search module configured to locate the banquet hall in response to a search request submitted by the Internet user to locate the banquet hall among a plurality of halls affiliated with the web site(Fig 1/1).Fukuma teaches the above for banquet halls. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

6. As per claim 39 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 38, wherein the time-slot display module of the web site module further comprises a time-slot search module configured to search and display the available time-slots for tables at the banquet hall's place of business during a selected time period as defined by the Internet user(Fig 5)(col 2 lines 5-17).Fukuma

Art Unit 2164

teaches the above for banquet halls. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

7. As per claim 40 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 39, wherein the time-slot search module is further configured to search and display the available and not-available time slot-increments for tables accommodating a specific party size as defined by the Internet user(col 7 lines 15-56). Fukuma teaches the above for banquet halls. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

8. As per claim 41 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37, wherein the booking module of the web site module is further configured to require the Internet user to submit personal information over the Internet for the Internet user to book one of the available time-slots to reserve the corresponding table at the banquet hall's place of business(col 9 line 51-col 10 line 1)(Fig 13)(Fig 8/803). Fukuma teaches the above for banquet halls. Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

9. As per claim 42 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 41, wherein the personal

Art Unit 2164

information includes at least one of the following types of information: the Internet user's name(Fig 13)(Fig 8/803/804) the Internet user's email address; the Internet user's mailing address; the Internet user's phone number;the Internet user's credit card information; and the Internet user's password.Fukuma teaches the above for banquet halls. Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

10. As per claim 43 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 41, wherein the booking module of the web site module is further configured to write the personal information submitted by the Internet user into the reservation booking database of the banquet hall, the personal information being written into the record in the banquet hall's reservation booking database corresponding to the time-slot displayed by the time-slot display module and booked by the Internet user(Fig 14)(Fig 6/14)(Fig 8/803).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants. Fukuma fails to teach intercomputer communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

11.As per claim 44 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 43, wherein the web site module further comprises a confirmation module configured to generate a confirmation message

Art Unit 2164

over the Internet to the Internet user after the personal information has been written to the reservation booking database of the banquet hall to confirm the booking of the selected time-slot(col 11 lines 1-4).Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

12. As per claim 45 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37, wherein the web site module provides for confirmation of a booked banquet hall(col 11 lines 1-4). Fukuma fails to teach a reminder module configured to send a reminder message over the Internet to the Internet user of the booked time-slot for the reserved table at the banquet hall's place of business a predetermined time period prior to the date of the booking. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to send a reminder message(second message) over the network that the reservation was transmitted and to combine Waytena in view of Fukumna to implement the identical methods to restaurants. The motivation is to apply these techniques to ther dining industry.

13. As per claim 46 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the Internet web site further comprises a link module configured to link to a web page associated with the restaurant.Waytena teaches computer communication in a network using wireless communications(col 3 lines 3-27). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine

Art Unit 2164

Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

14. As per claim 47 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the restaurant maintenance module further comprises a password module configured to accept a unique password to prevent the unauthorized access to the reservation booking database belonging to the restaurant. Waytena teaches a system whereby a wireless communication device communicates with a computer through a network to schedule reservations and a reservation is filtered to determine its validity(col 3 lines 11-17).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

15. As per claim 48 Fuzuma teaches the software product of claim 37, wherein the table reservation management module is further configured to permit the banquet hall to manage a substantial portion of its time-slot inventory for table bookings made by both Internet users through the Web site module or by non-Internet users(Fig 8/801-813/817/815/816).

Waytena teaches a system whereby a wireless communication device communicates with a computer through a network to schedule reservations and a reservation is filtered to determine its validity(col 3 lines 11-17).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

16. As per claim 49 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 48, wherein the table

Art Unit 2164

reservation management module further comprises a display module configured to permit the banquet hall to display the available and the booked time-slots for the tables at the banquet hall's place of business during a selected time period(col 3 line 58-col 4 line 30)(Fig. 1/1).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

17. As per claim 50 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 49, wherein the display module is further configured to display the time-slot inventory of tables at the banquet hall, the booked time-slots and the available time-slots during the selected time period(Fig 1/2/3/4). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

18. As per claim 51 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 50, wherein the display module is further configured to display the time-slot inventory of tables on a computer display, the time-slot inventory being displayed along a first axis and the time increments for the availability of the tables along a second axis of the computer display(Fig. 5).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

19. As per claim 52 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 50, wherein the restaurant display module is further configured to display the banquet hall's booked and available time-slots

Art Unit 2164

for tables at the banquet hall in at least one of the following seatings at the banquet hall: a dinner seating(Fig 5/12/13)and a lunch seating. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

20.As per claim 53 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 50, wherein the banquet hall display module is further configured to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked at the banquet hall by users through the site module(Fig 5).Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

21. As per claim 54 Fuhuma teaches the software product of claim 50, wherein the banquet hall display module is further configured to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked for customers by the banquet hall through the table reservation management module(col 8 lines 51-54)(col 10 lines 37-42)(Fig 8/815/816).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

22. As per claim 55 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 50, wherein the time-slots displayed by the banquet hall display module provides pointers to corresponding records among

Art Unit 2164

the plurality of records in the reservation booking database of the banquet hall(Fig 9/904)(col 10 lines 14-19).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

23. As per claim 56 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 55, wherein the corresponding records contains fields configured to store customer information related to the time-slot booked in the name of the customer(col 9 line 60-col 10 line 13).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants andto combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

24. As per claim 57 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 56, wherein the corresponding records include at least one of the following fields: a name field for storing the name of the customer(Fig 13) a mailing address field for storing the mailing address of the customer; an email address field for storing the email address of the customer; a phone number field for storing the phone number of the customer; a credit card field for storing the credit card information of the customer; and a password field for storing the password information of the customer.It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

25.As per claim 58 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 55, further comprising a banquet hall data entry module configured to allow the banquet hall to write customer

Art Unit 2164

information into the record corresponding to the available time-slot to book the available time-slot in the name of the customer(Fig 17).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

26. As per claim 59 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 55, wherein each time-slot displayed by the banquet hall display module is an active link to a second data display that displays the customer information in the record corresponding to a booked time-slot when the booked time-slot is selected by the banquet hall (Fig 8/801/813/817).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

27. As per claim 60 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 59, wherein the corresponding records contains fields configured to store customer information related to the time-slot booked in the name of the customer(col 9 line 60-col 10 line 13) in any case. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena tpo teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

28.As per claim 61 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 59, wherein the web site module further comprises a confirmation module configured to generate a confirmation message over the Internet to the Internet user after the personal information has been written to the

Art Unit 2164

reservation booking database of the banquet hall to confirm the booking of the selected time-slot(col 11 lines 1-4). Fukuma fails to teach arrival confirmation, but does teach opportunity to cancel(11 lines 10-33). Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above, to implement a default confirmation by failure to cancel as taught by Fukuma and to apply these methods to restaurants. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

29. As per claim 62 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 48, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a customer search module to aid the banquet hall in finding one of the time-slots for a table booked in the name of a customer in the reservation booking database(Fig 7/707/709)(Fig 8/816/815/817).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

30. The software product of claim 62, wherein the customer search module performs the search using at least one of the following search criteria: date of booking; name of customer who made the booking(Fig 13) email address of the customer who made the booking; or telephone number of the customer who made the booking.It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these

Art Unit 2164

techniques to the dining industry.

31. As per claim 64 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37 wherein the web site module further comprises a first cancellation module configured to permit the Internet user to cancel a previously booked timeslot for a table booked by the Internet user at the restaurant's place of business(col 11 lines 4-33)(Fig 9).Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications.

Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above, to implement a default confirmation by failure to cancel as taught by Fukuma and to apply these methods to restaurants. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

32. As per claim 65 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37, wherein the banquet hall maintenance module further comprises a second cancellation module configured to permit the banquet hall to cancel a previously booked time-slot for a table at the restaurant's place of business.(col 11 lines 16-34)(Fig 1/5).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

33. As per claim 66 Fukuma teaches the software module of claim 37. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the banquet hall maintenance module further comprises a communication module configured to permit the banquet hall to send communication messages to Internet users over the Internet.Waytena teaches this(col 3 lines 3-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the

Art Unit 2164

art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

34. As per claim 67 Fukuma teaches the software module of claim 37, wherein the banquet hall maintenance module further comprises a block-out module configured to enable the banquet hall to selectively block-out time-slots in the restaurant's time-slot inventory so that the blocked-out time slots can not be booked(Fig 1/5). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach this. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

35. As per claim 68 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the web site module is configured to reside on a central computing location coupled to the site.Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

36. As per claim 69 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 68, wherein the banquet hall maintenance module for the banquet hall, including the reservation booking database and the table reservation management module, are configured to reside on a computer affiliated with the banquet hall(Fig 1/5/7/4/3/6).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of

Art Unit 2164

the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

37. As per claim 70 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 69. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the restaurant maintenance module is further configured to write reservation updates to the restaurant's reservation booking database over the site to an aggregate database located at the central computing location, the aggregate database containing the reservation booking databases for a plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site. Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

38. As per claim 71 Fukuma teaches the software module of claim 68. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the banquet hall maintenance module further comprises a communication module configured to permit the banquet hall to send communication messages to Internet users over the Internet. Waytena teaches this(col 3 lines 3-55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

39. As per claim 70 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 71. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the restaurant maintenance module is further configured to write reservation updates to the restaurant's reservation booking database over the Internet to an aggregate database located at

Art Unit 2164

the central computing location, the aggregate database containing the reservation booking databases for a plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site. Waytena teaches this (col 3 lines 3-55).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

40. As per claim 73 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 71. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the restaurant maintenance module is further configured to write reservation updates to the restaurant's reservation booking database over the Internet to an aggregate database located at the central computing location, the aggregate database containing the reservation booking databases for a plurality of restaurants affiliated with the web site. Waytena teaches this (col 3 lines 3-55).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Steadham to teach the above and to write updates to the restaurant's booking database to a backup file to create a duplicate reservation data base. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

41. As per claim 74 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37. Waytena teaches wherein the web site module further comprising a web page module for the attraction, the web page module configured to post information pertaining to the attraction available over the Internet, the information including at least one of the following: the restaurant's menu; specials offered by the restaurant(col 3 lines 29-37) wines offered by the restaurant; and reviews of the restaurant.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the

Art Unit 2164

identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above and to write updates to the restaurant's booking database to a backup file to create a duplicate reservation data base. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

42. As per claim 75 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 74. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the restaurant maintenance module further comprises an editing module configured to permit the selected restaurant to edit the restaurant's web page module. Waytena teaches that the communications site for the restaurant(col 4 lines 61-64) has updates. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above and to write updates to the restaurant's booking database to a backup file to create a duplicate reservation data base. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

43. As per claim 76 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 38, wherein the search module is further configured to locate the selected banquet hall based on at least one of the following search criteria: name of the selected banquet hall, location of the selected banquet hall(Fig 1/1); or type of cuisine offered by the selected hall. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

44. As per claim 76 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 76, wherein the search module is further configured to locate the selected banquet hall based on at least one of the

Art Unit 2164

following search criteria: name of the selected banquet hall, location of the selected banquet hall(Fig 1/1) or type of cuisine offered by the selected hall, or reviews of the restaurant or price range for the restaurant. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

45. As per claim 78 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 37, further comprising a table layout display module, the table layout display module further configured to display the layout of tables at the banquet hall's place of business(Fig 5)(col 7 lines 15-57).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

46. As per claim 79 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 78, wherein the table layout display module is further configured to display booked tables in a first display mode(Fig 5/Mi/Di) and open tables in a second display mode(Fig 5/0)(col 7 lines 15-57).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

47. As per claim 80 Fukuma teaches a reservation system comprising a central computing location configured to host a banquet hall module configured to create a table for booking reservations at a plurality of banquet halls, the module further comprising a user module

Art Unit 2164

including: a module configured to identify a selected banquet hall in response to a search request submitted by a user to identify the selected banquet hall among a plurality of halls affiliated with the table and a time-slot display module configured to display one or more available time-slots each corresponding to one or more available tables at the selected banquet hall's place of business(Fig 5/10/11/12/13/14/15) a reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to the plurality of time-slots for the tables at the selected restaurant; and a booking module configured to permit the Internet user to book one of the available time-slots to reserve the corresponding table(col 5 lines 16-31). Fukuma fails to teach Internet communications. Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

48. As per claim 81 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 80. Fukuma fails to teach wherein the central computing location is further configured to cooperate with a local computer located at the selected restaurant, the local computer at the selected restaurant including a table reservation management module configured to permit the selected restaurant to book time-slots in its reservation booking database to reserve tables at the selected restaurant for customers not making bookings over the Internet. Waytena teaches communication with a network of computers through wireless communication(col 3 lines 3-27)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The

Art Unit 2164

motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

49. As per claim 85 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 81, wherein the table reservation management module is further configured to permit the banquet hall to manage a substantial portion of its time-slot inventory for table bookings made by both Internet users through the Web site module or by non-Internet users(Fig 8/801-813/817/815/816).

Fukuma fails to teach Internet users in his network. Waytena teaches a computer communications system using wireless technology(col 6 line 31-57)(col 3 line 3-57)It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

50. As per claim 86 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 85, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a display module configured to permit the banquet hall to display the available and the booked time-slots for the tables at the banquet hall's place of business during a selected time period(col 3 line 58-col 4 line 30)(Fig. 1/1).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

51.As per claim 87 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 86, wherein the banquet hall display module is further configured to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked at the banquet hall by Internet users through the Web site module(Fig 5). Fukuma fails to teach Internet users in his network. Waytena teaches a computer communications system using

Art Unit 2164

wireless technology(col 6 line 31-57)(col 3 line 3-57)It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

52. As per claim 88 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 86, wherein the banquet hall display module is further configured to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked for customers by the banquet hall through the table reservation management module(col 8 lines 51-54)(col 10 lines 37-42)(Fig 8/815/816).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

53. As per claim 89 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 86, wherein the time-slots displayed by the banquet hall display module provides pointers to corresponding records among the plurality of records in the reservation booking database of the banquet hall(Fig 9/904)(col 10 lines 14-19).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

54. As per claim 90 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 89, wherein the corresponding record contains fields configured to store customer information related to the time-slot booked in the name of the customer(col 9 line 60-col 10 line 13).It would have been . obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods

Art Unit 2164

to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

55. As per claim 91 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 90, wherein the corresponding record includes at least one of the following fields: a name field for storing the name of the customer(Fig. 13) a mailing address field for storing the mailing address of the customer; an email address field for storing the email address of the customer; a phone number field for storing the phone number of the customer; a credit card field for storing the credit card information of the customer; and a password field for storing the password information of the customer.It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

56. As per claim 92 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 90 wherein the corresponding record includes at least one of the following fields: a smoking field to indicate if the customer requires a smoking table a special occasions field to indicate if the customer is celebrating special occasion(Fig 1/2) and a dietary request field to indicate if the customer has a special dietary request.It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

57. As per claim 93 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 86, further comprising a banquet hall data entry module configured to allow the selected banquet hall to write customer information into the record corresponding to the selected time-slot to book the selected time-slot

Art Unit 2164

in the name of the customer by the selected banquet hall(Fig 13).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

58.As per claim 94 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 86, wherein each time-slot displayed by the restaurant display module is an active link to a second data display that displays the customer information in the record corresponding to a booked time-slot when the booked time-slot is selected by the restaurant(Fig 13)/(Fig 17).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

59. As per claim 95 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 86, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a customer search module to aid the selected restaurant in finding a booked time-slot for a table in the reservation booking database of the selected restaurant(Fig 1/5)(col 5 lines 16-30).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

60. As per claim 96 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 80, wherein the Internet user module further comprises a cancellation module(col 11 lines 10-34). Fukuma fails to teach Internet users in his network. Waytena teaches a computer communications system using wireless technology(col 6 line 31-57)(col 3 line 3-57)It would have been obvious to one skilled

Art Unit 2164

in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

61. As per claim 97 Fukuma teaches the software product of claim 81, wherein the table reservation management module further comprises a customer search module to aid the banquet hall in finding one of the time-slots for a table booked in the name of a customer in the reservation booking database(Fig 7/707/709)(Fig 8/816/815/817).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

62. As per claim 98 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 78, wherein the table layout display module is further configured to display booked tables in a first display mode and open tables in a second display mode(Fig 1/2)(Fig 5/Di/0).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

63. As per claim 99 Fukuma teaches a method comprising the steps of providing a first banquet hall reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to a plurality of time-slots for the tables at the first banquet hall(Fig 1/1/2) and

Art Unit 2164

providing a banquet hall table reservation management module configured to enable the first banquet hall to book time-slots in the first reservation booking database to reserve tables at the first banquet hall for customers not making bookings over the Internet(Fig 1/5). Fukuma fails to teach providing an Internet booking module configured to enable an Internet user to book an available one of the time-slots to reserve one of the tables at the first restaurant. Waytena teaches communication with a network of computers through wireless communication(col 3 lines 3-27)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

100. As per claim 100 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99, further comprising the steps of providing the first reservation booking database at the first banquet hall(Fig 1/2).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

64. As per claim 101 Steadham teaches comprising the steps of providing a copy of the first reservation booking database at a central computing location and updating the copy of the first reservation booking database when the first banquet hall books time-slots in the first reservation booking database to reserve tables for customers not making bookings over the Internet(col 3 lines 44-57).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena and further in view of Steadham to teach the above. The motivation is to

Art Unit 2164

apply these techniques to the dining industry.

65. As per claim 102 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99, further comprising the steps of providing the first reservation booking database at a central computing location(Fig 1). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

66. As per claim 103 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 102. Steadham teaches the steps of providing a copy of the first reservation booking database at the first restaurant and updating the copy of the first reservation booking database(col 3 lines 44-57). Waytena teaches Internet users booking time-slots in the first reservation booking database located at the central computing location to reserve tables at the first site(col 3 lines 3-27).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena and further in view of Steadham to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

67. As per claim 104 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 102. Waytena teaches further comprising the steps of aggregating a plurality of reservation booking databases associated with a plurality of restaurants at the central computing location(col 3 lines 3-27).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

68. As per claim 105 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99. Waytena teaches further

Art Unit 2164

comprising the steps of maintaining a restaurant related web site(col 3 lines 3-55)(col 6 lines 31-57), affiliating a plurality of restaurants with the web site, and providing the plurality of restaurants a plurality of the reservation booking databases and a plurality of the table reservation management modules respectively. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

69. As per claim 106 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 105. Waytena teaches further comprising the step of providing a search module with the site to enable the user to search for the first restaurant among the plurality of restaurants' affiliated with the web site(col 3 lines 11-17), utilizing wireless communication with a network of computers. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

70. As per claim 107 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99, wherein the step of providing the table reservation management module further comprises the step of enabling the first restaurant to manage a substantial portion of its time-slot inventory for table bookings made by Internet users or for non-Internet users by the first restaurant(Fig 1/2/1)(Fig 13-17)(Fig 8/816).

Fukuma fails to teach Internet users in his network. Waytena teaches a computer communications system using wireless technology(col 6 line 31-57)(col 3 line 3-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical

Art Unit 2164

methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

71. As per claim 108 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99, wherein the step of providing the table reservation management module further comprises the step of providing a restaurant display module configured to enable the first restaurant to display the available and the booked time-slots for the tables at the first restaurant's place of business during a time period defined by the first restaurant(Fig 5/Di/0).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

72. As per claim 109 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 108, wherein the step of providing the restaurant display module further comprises the step of configuring the restaurant display module to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked at the first restaurant(Fig. 5).

Waytena teaches a computer communications system using wireless technology(col 6 line 31-57)(col 3 line 3-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

73. As per claim 110 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 108, wherein the step of providing the restaurant display module further comprises the step of configuring the restaurant display module to display the bookings of time-slots for tables previously booked for customers by the first restaurant through the reservation table management module(Fig 1/5)(Fig. 5).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods

Art Unit 2164

to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

74. As per claim 111 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 108, wherein the step of displaying time-slots during the time period defined by the first restaurant further comprises the step of configuring the displayed time-slots as pointers to the corresponding records among the plurality of records in the first reservation booking database(Fig 9/904)(col 10 lines 14-19).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

75. As per claim 112, Fukuma teaches the method of claim 111, further comprising the step of enabling the first restaurant to write customer information into the records corresponding to the time-slots booked by the first restaurant in the name of customers(Fig 17).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

76. As per claim 113 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 111. Waytena teaches further comprising the step of enabling the Internet user to write customer information into the record corresponding to the available one of the time-slots to reserve the corresponding table at the first restaurant(col 3 lines 3-55).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

Art Unit 2164

77. As per claim 114 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 111, further comprising the step of configuring the record to be written with customer information to reserve the corresponding time slot in the name of the customer, the record including at least one of the following fields: a name field for storing the name of the customer(Fig 13)(Fig 8/803/804) a mailing address field for storing the mailing address of the customer; an email address field for storing the email address of the customer; a phone number field for storing the phone number of the customer; a credit card field for storing the credit card information, of the customer; and a password field for storing the password information of the customer. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

78. As per claim 115 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99, further comprising the step of providing a customer search module to aid the first restaurant in finding one of the time-slots booked in the name of a customer(Fig 1/5/3/4/7/6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

79. As per claim 116 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99, further comprising the step of providing a cancellation module configured to permit the Internet user to cancel a previously booked time-slot for a table booked by the Internet user at the first restaurant's place of business(col 11 lines 10-33). Waytena teaches a computer communications system using

Art Unit 2164

wireless technology(col 6 line 31-57)(col 3 line 3-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

80. As per claim 117 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 99, further comprising step of providing a table layout display module configured to display the layout of tables at the first banquet hall's place of business.(col 4 lines 9-31).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

81. As per claim 118 Fukuma teaches the method of claim 117, wherein the step of providing the table layout display module further comprises the steps of displaying booked tables in a first display mode and open tables in a second display mode(Fig 5/Di/Mi/0).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

82.As per claim 119 Fukuma teaches a software product comprising a first restaurant a reservation booking database having a plurality of records, the plurality of records corresponding to a plurality of time-slots for the tables at the first restaurant(Fig 1/1/2/3/4/5/6/7) and a restaurant table reservation management module configured to enable the first restaurant to book time-slots in the first reservation booking database to reserve tables at the first restaurant for

Art Unit 2164

customers not making bookings over the Internet(Fig 1/5). Fukuma fails to teach an Internet booking module configured to enable an Internet user to book an available one of the time-slots to reserve one of the tables at the first restaurant. Waytena teaches a computer communications system using wireless technology(col 6 line 31-57)(col 3 line 3-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

83. Claims 82-84 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Fukuma(US Pat. No: 5,909,668) in view of Steadham(US Pat. No: 5,634,016) and further in view of Waytena(US Pat. No: 5,978,770).

84. As per claim 82 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 81, further comprising an update module located at the central computing location(Fig 8/816). Fukuma fails to teach the upgrade module configured to update the second reservation booking database located at the local computer of the selected site when the one of the available time-slots in the reservation booking database of the selected banquet hall is selected. Steadham teaches this(col 3 lines 44-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena and further in view of Steadham to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

85. As per claim 83 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 82, further comprising an

Art Unit 2164

update module located at the central computing location(Fig 8/816). Fukuma fails to teach the upgrade module configured to update the second reservation booking database located at the local computer of the selected restaurant when the Internet user books one of the available time-slots in the reservation booking database of the selected banquet hall. Steadham teaches this(col 3 lines 44-57). Waytena teaches computer communication(col 3 lines 3-7)(col 6 lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena and further in view of Steadham to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

86. As per claim 84 Fukuma teaches the reservation system of claim 82, further comprising an update module located at the central computing location(Fig 8/816). Fukuma fails to teach the upgrade module configured to update the second reservation booking database located at the local computer of the selected site when the one of the available time-slots in the reservation booking database of the selected banquet hall is selected. Steadham teaches this(col 3 lines 44-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to implement the identical methods to restaurants and to combine Fukuma in view of Waytena and further in view of Steadham to teach the above. The motivation is to apply these techniques to the dining industry.

Art Unit 2164

Conclusion


87. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Furukawa teaches a reservation control method for facilities
- Sakurai teaches an apparatus for controlling reservation for goods
- Maeda teaches reservatioin media issuing system using fuzzy logic
- Leisece teaches a cinputerized reservations system
- Schneider teaches a hotel database inquiry system

Any inquiries concerning this communication should be directed to the examiner, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E. who can be telephoned at (703)-306-5844 between the hours of 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. If attempts to contact the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nr, Vincent Millin, may be reached at (703)-308-1065.

GRA

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